

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 AF-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01 ARA-10 EA-09

EUR-12 NEA-10 SCA-01 VOE-00 INSE-00 /122 W

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R 221635Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7714

UNCLAS GENEVA 0472

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: ANGOLAN RETURNEES IN PORTUGAL (ICEM)

REF: STATE 12615

MISSION TRANSMITS HERewith ICEM'S REPLY OF JAN 21
TO QUESTIONS ON ANGOLAN REFUGEES RAISED IN REFTel. QUOTE:
PORTUGAL BECAME A MEMBER OF ICEM AT ITS 39TH COUNCIL
SESSION NOVEMBER 1975. AT THAT TIME THE HEAD OF THE
PORTUGUESE DELEGATION APPEALED FOR ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF
RESETTLEMENT TO HELP MEET THE GRAVE PROBLEMS CREATED BY
250,000 RETURNEES FROM ANGOLA (FIGURE NOW INCREASED TO
SOME 400,000) AND MORE THAN 300,000 UNEMPLOYED PENINSULAR
PORTUGUESE.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

AS A RESULT OF PORTUGAL'S APPEAL TO ICEM FOR ASSISTANCE,
THE DIRECTOR SENT LETTERS TO 52 GOVERNMENTS (INCLUDING THE
US GOVERNMENT) FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR RETURNEES
FROM ANGOLA TO PORTUGAL IN OCT 1975.

IN 1975 ICEM RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTIONS:

AUSTRIA-\$21,203.01

GERMANY-10,000.00

SWITZERLAND-37,593.98

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SUB-TOTAL-\$68,796.99

TO DATE IN 1976, ICEM HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING
CONTRIBUTIONS:

NORWAY-\$100,000.00

TOTAL TO DATE-\$168,798.99

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ICEM HAS RECEIVED INFORMAL
ENQUIRES FROM SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE
INDICATED THEY ARE AWAITING A FINAL DECISION ON THE
PART OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL ON THE INITIATION
OF A ACTIVE PROGRAM OF RESETTLEMENT BEFORE MAKING
A FORMAL DECISION ON CONTRIBUTIONS. ICEM IS ALSO
HOPEFUL THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL WILL AGREE
TO THE USE OF \$1,000,000 FOR THE ABOVE PURPOSE OF
THE AID APPROPRIATION OF \$35,000,000.

OPERATIONAL ASPECTS:

THE ICEM DIRECTOR PROPOSED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF
PORTUGAL THAT AN OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT BE SIGNED
WITH ICEM AS A BASIS FOR THE INITIATION OF AN
ACTIVE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM. DESPITE SEVERAL MEETINGS
WITH THE APPROPRIATE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES,
SIGNATURE OF THE OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT IS STILL
AWAITED.

MEANWHILE ICEM HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO SEND
STAFF TO LISBON TO START A SMALL PROGRAM IN
CONJUNCTION WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EMIGRATION WITHIN THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
THE ICEM STAFF ARE ALSO REVIEWING WITH THE CATHOLIC
VOLUNTARY AGENCIES NEEDS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR A
FAMILY REUNION SCHEME TO USA, CANADA AND OTHER
COUNTRIES. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THERE ARE AMONG
THE RETURNEES MANY WITH CLOSE RELATIVES MAINLY IN
USA AND CANADA.

IN ADDITION TO PLANNING THE OPERATION OF FAMILY
REUNION PROGRAMS UNDER USUAL LOAN FUND
ARRANGEMENTS FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCY SUPPORTED CASES,
ICEM WILL ALSO MAKE THE SELECTIVE MIGRATION PROGRAMS
OPERATIVE FOR RETURNEES. AS A RESULT OF AN APPEAL,
THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES HAVE ACCEPTED TO ADMIT
RETURNEES AND PORTUGUESE WORKERS UNDER THESE PROGRAMS:
ARGENTINA BRAZIL CHILE COLOMBIA COSTA RICA DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
ECUADOR HONDURAS NICARAGUA VENEZUELA
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FURTHERMORE BOLIVA AND PARAGUAY PREPARED ACCEPT
FARM FAMILIES FOR RESETTLEMENT IN CERTAIN REGIONS,
THE LATTER COUNTRY UP TO 5,000 FAMILIES. HOWEVER
EXTENSIVE PLANING AND CONSIDERABLE FINANCING REQUIRED
TO IMPLEMENT ANY AGRICULTURAL SCHEME.
ICEM HOPES THAT SPECIAL PROGRAMS AGREED FOR
HUMANITARIAN REASONS WILL BE AUTHORIZED BY MEMBER
GOVERNMENTS, SUCH PROGRAMS BEING VERY IMPORTANT

TO ENABLE ASSISTANCE TO BE GIVEN TO SOME OF THE
MOST DESERVING CASES.

ICEM IS COORDINATING ITS EFFORSS WITH OTHER
ORGANIZATIONS ENDEAVOURING TO ASSIST PORTUGAL,
VIZ. UNDRO AND OECD. THESE ORGANIZATIONS AGREED
THAT, IN ADDITION TO THEIR EFFORTS CONCENTRATED
ON HOUSING, RELIEF SUPPLIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR WHICH
THEY ENDEAVOURING FIND FUNDS, EMIGRATION IS AN ESSENTIAL
ELEMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S EFFORSTS TO ASSIST
PORTUGAL.

THE DIRECTOR OF ECEM HOPES THAT THE PORTUGUESE
GOVERNMENT WILL SIGN THE OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT
FORMALIZING ICEM'S PRESENCE IN THAT COUNTRY, THUS
MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT THE RESETTLEMENT
OF SOME 12,000 PERSONS IN 1976 AT AN ESTIMATED
COST OF AROUND 4 MILLION US DOLLARS, AND EXPECTS
THAT ICEM WILL BE ABLE TO ISSUE A MORE SPECIFIC
STATEMENT ON RESETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES BY 1 FEB UNQUOTE DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA00472
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760025-0870
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760132/aaaabcbb.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 12615
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by barnescd>; APPROVED <26 JAN 2005 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANGOLAN RETURNEES IN PORTUGAL (ICEM)
TAGS: SREF, AO, PO, ICEM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006